

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed is one copy of NSF Request for Proposals No. OPP 98001, titled *Science, Operations and Maintenance Support for the United States Antarctic Program*. This document is being released in draft form for input from interested parties.

NSF views this document as a work-in-progress that stands to be revised many times prior to release of the referenced solicitation in final form. Though the section and subsections have yet to be integrated into a coherent RFP, the document accurately represents the Foundation's thinking at this point in time.

Accordingly, the Foundation encourages advice on any and all topics. These comments will be employed by NSF in its procurement planning. NSF is particularly interested in commercial best practices that may be applied; opportunities for innovative and cost effective applications of information and communications technology; implementation of integrated project cost, performance and schedule reporting; risk minimization strategies; and the information requirements of potential participants in this acquisition.

NSF will accept comments in writing and presented orally. Written comments may be forwarded to the letterhead address (ATTN: Mr. Bart Bridwell, Rm. 475), by fax at 703/306-0280, or by e-mail to bbridwel@nsf.gov. Comments should be submitted in two volumes. The first volume should contain information of a general nature that is releasable to the public without reservation. The second volume should contain information that interested parties do not want disclosed to the public or used by the Government except for procurement planning purposes. This volume shall contain the following legend on the cover page.

This document includes data that shall not be disclosed outside the Government and shall not be duplicated, used, or disclosed – in whole or in part – for any purpose other than planning for NSF RFP No. OPP 98001. This restriction does not limit the Government's right to use data contained in this document if it is obtained from another source without restriction. The data subject to this restriction are contained in sections [insert page numbers or other identifying information].

In addition, each section of data an interested party wishes to be restricted should be marked as follows.

Use or disclosure of data contained in this section is subject to the restriction on the cover page of this document.

NSF will protect this data from release to the public to the extent allowed by law.

Appointments for oral presentations may be scheduled by calling Mr. Bridwell at 703/306-1242. Input is requested within thirty calendar days from release of this document.

Attached is the list of organizations requesting the draft solicitation as of the release date. In addition, NSF is preparing an acquisition home page. Additional information on interested parties and other matters will be posted and continuously updated.

Further inquiries regarding this acquisition should be directed to Mr. Bridwell as identified herein.

Sincerely,

William C. Bruning
Contracting Officer